

LITTLE BLUE NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT

Board Meeting Minutes

September 12, 2023

6:30 PM – Public Hearing on Proposed FY 2024 Budgets

Open Hearing & Public Notice

Wiedel opened the public hearing for the FY 24 budget review at 6:33 p.m. and presented the publication of notice placed in the Hastings Tribune on August 31, 2023, and the Fairbury Journal-News on August 30, 2023.

Presentation of proposed FY 2024 Budget of LBPWP-N, LBPWP-S, LBNRD

Nelson reviewed the FY 2024 budgets of the Little Blue NRD.

Questions, Comments, Testimony

There were no comments.

Close of Hearing

Wiedel closed the hearing at 6:38 p.m.

6:45 PM – Public Hearing to Set the FY 2024 Budget Final Tax Request

Open Hearing & Public Notice

Wiedel opened the public hearing to set the FY 24 budget final tax request at 6:45 p.m. and presented the publication of notice placed in the Hastings Tribune on August 31, 2023, and the Fairbury Journal-News on August 30, 2023. Nelson reviewed the FY 2024 tax request and mill levy.

Questions, Comments, Testimony

No questions or comments were received.

Close of Hearing

Wiedel closed the hearing at 6:52 p.m.

CALL MEETING TO ORDER – Alan Wiedel

The Directors of the Little Blue Natural Resources District met in regular session on Tuesday, September 12, 2023 at the Little Blue Natural Resources District Office, Davenport, Nebraska. Chairman Wiedel called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Wiedel led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL OF DIRECTORS

Directors Present: Glen Bonifas, Glen Bredthauer, Bill Glenn, Jessi Hoeft, Mason Hoffman, Brent Hoops, Alan Kenning, Kyle Knight, Courtney Luebben, Jay Meyer, Russ Ochsner, Aaron Paus, Lyle Schroer, Steve Shaw, Warren Taylor, Jesse VonSpreckelsen and Alan Wiedel.

Directors Absent: None.

Others Present: Scott Nelson, Tyler Goeschel, Marie Herbek, Kevin Orvis, Kathy Boysen, Jessica Hedges, Tim Hecke; Don Blankenau, Legal Counsel; Janet Valasek, NRCS; Chris Miller, Miller & Associates; members of the public.

Wiedel noted that a copy of the Nebraska Open Meetings Act was posted and available for anyone who may want to review the document.

PUBLICATIONS OF BOARD MEETING NOTICE

Legal notice of the regular meeting was provided to the *FAIRBURY JOURNAL NEWS* and the *HASTINGS TRIBUNE*. The agenda was sent to all board members, radio, television, and newspapers in the district and posted at the NRCS offices in the district and the Little Blue NRD office.

ACTION TO ADOPT BOARD MEETING AGENDA

Motion # 1 – Luebben moved, seconded by Hoffman to approve the agenda for the September 12, 2023 meeting as presented. Carried by roll call vote – 17 yes votes.

ACTION TO APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

Acceptance of Board Member Absences: There were no absences.

Approval of Minutes of August 8, 2023, Board Meeting: There were no changes to the minutes.

Approval of Certified Acres: No changes to certified acres were reported.

MOTION # 2 – Schroer moved, seconded by Hoffman to approve the minutes of August 8, 2023, as circulated. Carried by roll call vote – 17 yes votes.

ACTION ON TREASURER'S REPORT – Bill Glenn

Copies of the Little Blue NRD Treasurer's Report were circulated. Glenn reviewed the report.

MOTION # 3 - Glenn moved, seconded by Taylor to approve the Little Blue NRD Treasurer's Report as presented. Carried by roll call vote – 17 yes votes.

Glenn reviewed the Little Blue Public Water - North Project Treasurer's Report.

MOTION # 4 - Glenn moved, seconded by Bonifas to approve the Little Blue Public Water Project - North Treasurer's Report as presented. Carried by roll call vote – 17 yes votes.

Glenn reviewed the Little Blue Public Water Project - South Treasurer's Report.

MOTION # 5 - Glenn moved, seconded by Ochsner to approve the Little Blue Public Water Project - South Treasurer's Report as presented. Carried by roll call vote – 17 yes votes.

AGENCY REPORTS

NRCS Report – Janet Valasek: Valasek gave a brief report on the happenings at the NRCS.

NARD Report: Hoffman reminded everyone of the upcoming NARD conference being held September 25 and 26 in Kearney.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The Executive Committee met prior to the regular meeting.

Aaron Bos – Nebraska Cooperative Liquid Assets Securities System (Nebraska Class)

Bos was unable to be present and requested to be added to the October agenda.

Action to Approve FY 2024 Property & Liability Insurance Renewal Quote: The quote for renewal of property insurance was presented for approval. **MOTION # 6 – Wiedel moved, seconded by Knight to approve FY 2024 property & insurance liability renewal quote from FNIC.** Carried by roll call vote – 17 yes votes.

Action to Approve FY 2024 Little Blue NRD Water Projects and District General Budgets: The Little Blue NRD, Little Blue Public Water Project North and Little Blue Public Water Project South's FY 2024 budgets were presented for approval. **MOTION # 7 – Wiedel moved, seconded by Bredthauer to approve the FY 2024 Little Blue NRD budget in the amount of \$4,843,618 with a tax asking of 1,746,756.62 the Little Blue Public Water Project North budget in the amount of \$470,312 and Little Blue Public Water Project South budget in the amount of \$462,754.** Carried by roll call vote – 17 yes votes.

Action to Establish FY 2024 LBNRD General Property Tax Levy: **MOTION # 8 – Wiedel moved seconded by Luebben that the Little Blue NRD Board of Directors accept the Resolution on the final adoption of FY 2024 budget and property tax request of \$1,746,756.62 which will require a property tax levy rate of 0.017509.** Carried by roll call vote – 17 yes votes.

Other Business: There was no other business.

WATER RESOURCES COMMITTEE

The Water Resources Committee met prior to the regular meeting.

Motion to Advance Amended GWMP Rules and Regulations to a Public Hearing: Revised Groundwater Rules and Regulations were presented for approval to advance to a public hearing. **MOTION # 9 – Hoops moved, seconded by Hoffman to approve the revised Groundwater Rules and Regulations and advance them to a public hearing.** Carried by roll call vote – 17 yes votes.

Action to Formally Lift Cease and Desist Orders for Operators in Compliance

One operator remained in non-compliance with the district's Groundwater Rules and Regulations soil sampling rules and was issued a Cease-and-Desist letter; the operator submitted the required report.

MOTION # 10 – Hoops moved, seconded by Hoffman to lift the Cease and Desists Order for the operator who submitted the required soil sampling reports.

Review 2023 Nitrate Report: Goeschel reviewed the 2023 Nitrate Report compiled from water samples taken across the district. After discussion it was decided to address this further at the October meeting.

Other Business: There was no other business.

PROJECTS AND PLANNING COMMITTEE

The Projects and Planning Committee met prior to the regular meeting.

Motion to Approve Engineering Contract with Miller & Associates for LBPWP: The contract from Miller & Associates for the Municipal Water System Improvements was presented for approval. Chris Miller was present to answer questions. **MOTION # 11 – Luebben moved, seconded by VonSpreckelsen to approve the contract from Miller & Associates for the engineering fees for the Little Blue Public Water Projects municipal water system improvements.** Carried by roll call vote – 17 yes votes.

Motion to Approve WSF Funding Contract for LBPWP: A contract for a grant award for the Little Blue Public Water Projects improvements from the Department of Natural Resources Water Sustainability Fund was presented for approval. **MOTION # 12 – Luebben moved, seconded by Hoffman to approve the State of Nebraska Department of Natural Resources Water Sustainability Fund Grant Award in the amount of \$3,919,500 to be used for the Little Blue Public Water Projects municipal water system improvements.** Carried by roll call vote – 17 yes votes.

Motion to Approve Archaeological Investigation Bid for LBPWP: Two proposals were received for an archaeological survey for the LBPWP municipal water system improvements. **MOTION # 13 – Luebben moved, seconded by Hoeft to approve Rob Bozell to conduct the archaeological survey for the Little Blue Public Water Projects municipal water system improvements in the amount of \$10,328.** Carried by roll call vote – 17 yes votes.

Motion to Approve Land Right Agreement for LBPWP: No action was taken. Nelson and Miller reviewed what is needed to obtain land rights for LBPWP municipal water system improvement project.

Review/Approve Bid for New Playground Equipment at Prairie Lake: Three bids were received for playground equipment to be installed at Prairie Lake. **MOTION # 14 – Luebben moved, seconded by Kenning to accept the Synergy SY-2410 bid in the amount of \$27,620 for the purchase and installation of playground equipment at Prairie Lake Recreation Area.** Carried by roll call vote – 17 yes votes.

Other Business: There was no other business.

OPEN PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

David Endorf asked if the Glenn family will be required to abandon their irrigation well on the property the LBPWP plans to install their municipal water wells due to concerns for neighboring irrigation wells. Endorf stated he feels well site 5 is a poor site to install a well due to nitrate concerns, he recommended using well site 3 instead. He asked what the hidden agenda is for installing the municipal water system wells. Miller explained why they chose the well locations, the difference in municipal well and irrigation well construction and how the municipal wells work. Endorf expressed concern for the future of neighboring wells.

OTHER BUSINESS

Nelson reported on discussion that was held at the recent manager's meeting regarding Nebraska Farm Bureau's suggestion for possible changes to the NRD taxing authority.

ADJOURNMENT

Wiedel adjourned the meeting at 8:10 P.M.

COUNTY OF THAYER)
)
STATE OF NEBRASKA)

I, the undersigned, Secretary of the Little Blue Natural Resources District, hereby certify that these are true and correct minutes of the meeting of the Board of Directors of the District held on September 12, 2023, that all of the subjects discussed at the meeting were contained in the agenda for the meeting, kept continually current and readily available for public inspection at the principal office of the District during normal business hours, and except for items of an emergency nature, the agenda was not altered later than twenty-four (24) hours before the scheduled commencement of the meeting; that a copy of the Nebraska Open Meetings Act was posted and available to the public; that at least one copy of all reproducible material discussed at the meeting was available at the meeting for examination and copying by members of the public; that the minutes were in written form and available for public inspection within ten working days and prior to the next convened meeting of said body; and, that all news media requesting notification of the meeting of said body were provided advance notification of the time and place of said meeting and the subjects to be discussed at said meeting.

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